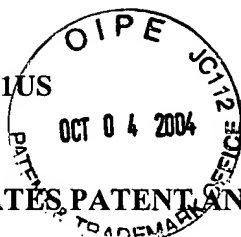


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Shuber et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/545,162

EXAMINER: Juliet Caroline Switzer

FILING DATE: April 7, 2000

ART UNIT: 1634

FOR: METHODS FOR DETECTING NUCLEIC ACIDS INDICATIVE OF CANCER

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Boston, Massachusetts
October 4, 2004

RESPONSE TO APRIL 2, 2004 FINAL OFFICE ACTION

The following amendment and remarks are made in further response to the Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 2, 2004. With a three-month extension, these documents are due on or before Monday, October 4, 2004 (October 2, 2004 being a Saturday). In conjunction with the Amendment and Response filed August 2, 2004, Applicant previously submitted a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time, along with a check in the amount of \$110.00 to cover the petition fee. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time, along with a check in the amount of \$870.00 to cover the petition fee. This amount represents the petition fee for a three-month extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(3) as of October 1, 2004 (*i.e.*, \$980.00) reduced by the amount of money Applicant previously paid for the one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1) (*i.e.*, \$110.00). Accordingly, Applicants believe no additional fees are due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 26597-526.

Applicants submit this paper in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114 and the required fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e). This paper constitutes a proper submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c).

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.